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Agenda item 116

Pattern of conferences

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Haile Selassie **Getachew** (Ethiopia)

I. Introduction

1. At its 19th plenary meeting, on 20 September 2002, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled "Pattern of conferences" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 12th, 14th, 15th and 38th meetings, on 21, 23 and 24 October and on 16 December 2002. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/57/SR.12, 14, 15 and 38).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Committee on Conferences;[1]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of recruitment for the Interpretation Section at the United Nations Office at Nairobi (A/56/901);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on pattern of conferences (A/57/228 and Add.1 and 2);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on improving the performance of the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services (A/57/289);

(e) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/57/472);

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 32* and corrigendum (A/57/32 and Corr.1).

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(f) Letter dated 18 October 2002 from the Chairman of the Sixth Committee addressed to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee (A/C.5/57/18);

(g) Letter dated 12 November 2002 from the President of the General Assembly addressed to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee, transmitting a letter dated 7 November 2002 from the Chairman of the Sixth Committee addressed to the President of the General Assembly (A/C.5/57/21).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/57/L.52

4. At its 38th meeting, on 16 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Pattern of conferences" (A/C.5/57/L.52), which was submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Singapore.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/57/L.52 without a vote (see para. 7).

6. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements in explanation of position were made by the representatives of the Russian Federation, Costa Rica, Singapore, Mexico (on behalf of the 20 Spanish-speaking countries), Cuba, the Syrian Arab Republic, Denmark (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), New Zealand, Australia, Canada and the United States of America (see A/C.5/57/SR.38).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

7. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Pattern of conferences

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its relevant resolutions, including resolutions 40/243 of 18 December 1985, 41/213 of 19 December 1986, 43/222 A to E of 21 December 1988, 52/214 of 22 December 1997, 54/248 of 23 December 1999, 55/222 of 23 December 2000, 56/242 of 24 December 2001, 56/254 D of 27 March 2002, 56/262 of 15 February 2002 and 56/287 of 27 June 2002,

Having considered the report of the Committee on Conferences[2] and the relevant reports of the Secretary-General,[3]

Having also considered the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[4]

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[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 32* and corrigendum (A/57/32 and Corr.1).

[3] A/56/901, A/57/228 and Add.1 and 2, A/57/289 and A/C.5/56/37.

[4] A/57/472.

1. *Approves* the draft revised calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for 2003, as contained in the annex to the report of the Committee on Conferences;[2]

2. *Authorizes* the Committee on Conferences to make any adjustments to the calendar of conferences and meetings for 2003 that may become necessary as a result of actions and decisions taken by the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that any modification to the calendar of conferences and meetings should be implemented strictly in accordance with the mandate of the Committee on Conferences and other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

4. *Decides* to continue consideration of this agenda item, as a matter of priority, during the first part of its resumed fifty-seventh session;

5. *Also decides* to resume consideration of the reports of the Secretary-General on pattern of conferences[5] and on improving the performance of the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services[6] in order to take action on them.

[5] A/57/228 and Add.1 and 2.
[6] A/57/289.